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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/561,553	12/20/2005	Ulrich Wilhelm Brandes	101215-208	9948

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EXAMINER

RICCI, JOHN A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3711

DATE MAILED: 09/25/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/561,553

Applicant(s)

BRANDES, ULRICH WILHELM

Examiner

John Ricci

Art Unit

3711

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 December 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,6-12 and 15-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-5,13,14 and 18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/19/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

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The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: The specification should include at least the headings "Brief Description of the Drawings", and "Detailed Description of the Invention".

Appropriate correction is required.

\* \* \* \* \*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 6-12, 15, & 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swiss 672430 in view of Carlton 3,560,128.

Swiss 672430 shows a shuttlecock including a conical crown, a striking cap 2, and a ring 12 attached to the crown, which may be illuminated. It is not clear if the crown includes a fastening element to secure the striking cap. A fastening element would be desirable to allow the

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striking cap to be removed and replaced if it is worn out. For example, Carlton shows that a shuttlecock may include a crown with a fastening element 4 to secure striking cap 7. It would have been obvious to include this fastening element in the shuttlecock of Swiss 672430.

The weight, hardness, and diameter of the parts that provides the best performance could be determined through routine experimentation.

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swiss 672430 in view of Carlton 3,560,128 as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Shaw 2,757,932.

The striking cap of the shuttlecock of Swiss 672430 does not appear to include an opening. An opening which produces acoustic resonance would be desirable to increase the play value. For example, Shaw shows that a shuttlecock may have an end cap with an opening to produce a sound during play. It would have been obvious to include this opening in the end cap of Swiss 672430.

\* \* \* \* \*

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Claims 2-5, 13, 14, & 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

\* \* \* \* \*

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

\* \* \* \* \*

This letter was prepared by Examiner John Ricci, who can be reached at:

Voice: 571-272-4429

Fax: Use 571-273-8300 for papers to be delivered directly to the mail room, like formal amendments and responses, change of address, power of attorney, petitions.

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Use 703-783-0439 for papers to be delivered directly to the Examiner, like informal or proposed responses for discussion, or notes in preparation for an interview.

*Response by Fax is encouraged to reduce mail processing time. Please don't send duplicate papers by mail and Fax.*

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**JOHN RICCI  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
ART UNIT 3711**